

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /036 W
-----073347 050701Z /17
R 021336Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5480

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EAIR, CZ
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: GOC POSTPONES PAN AM PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT

REFS A. PRAGUE 3299, B. PRAGUE 3274

1. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PAN AM REP COLLINS HAY, HIS OFFICE WAS INFORMED ORALLY BY KACHTIK OF KRATKY FILM LAST FRIDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 26, THAT MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HAD DECREED 30-DAY DELAY IN PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PA PROJECT TO SHOOT STILL PILOT TRAINING PHOTOS OF APPROACHES TO PRAGUE AIRPORT. HAY SAYS GOC AGREED THREE MONTHS AGO THAT PHOTOGRAPHY COULD BE DONE ON MAY 30-31. PA PHOTOGRAPHER WAS DUE TO LEAVE U.S. TO COME HERE FOR PROJECT ON MAY 28. HAY UNDERSTANDS HIS VISA WILL EXPIRE BEFORE 30 MORE DAYS ELAPSE.

2. HAY WAS UNDERSTANDABLY VERY UNHAPPY WITH ARBITRARY MANNER THIS DECISION WAS TAKEN AND THEN COMMUNICATED TO HIM AT NEXT TO LAST MINUTE. HE WAS ABLE TO STOP PHOTOGRAPHER FROM COMING BUT STILL HAS NEVER RECEIVED AN EXPLANATION FOR THE DELAY FROM ANY GOC SOURCE. (NOTE: DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL CONSIDERABLE EFFORT EXPENDED LAST NOVEMBER AND BEFORE TO GET CZECHOSLOVAKS TO FACILITATE THIS PROJECT AND TO REDUCE FEE TO PAN AM TO A REASONABLE LEVEL. SEE REFTELS AND PREVIOUS. IN THE END, ZANTOVSKY, HEAD OF MFA'S SIXTH DEPARTMENT, WAS HELPFUL IN
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HAVING THIS PROBLEM RESOLVED TO PAN AM'S SATISFACTION. HOWEVER, PHOTOGRAPHY COULD NOT ACTUALLY BE DONE UNTIL FAVORABLE WEATHER RETURNED TO PRAGUE.)

3. EMBOFF EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THIS TO KAMIS OF ZANTOVSKY'S OFFICE ON MAY 30. KAMIS, WHO WAS NOT PREVIOUSLY INVOLVED, WAS UNSYMPATHETIC AND TRIED TO SHIFT RESPONSIBILITY TO

TRANSPORT MINISTRY, WHICH HAY HAD EARLIER CONTACTED WITH
NO SUCCESS.

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT GOC UNILATERALLY
POSTPONED PROJECT BECAUSE OF CURRENT VISIT OF BREZHNEV, WHO
ARRIVED IN PRAGUE ON MAY 30. CZECHOSLOVAKS WOULD NO DOUBT BE
JITTERY ABOUT U.S. FIRM PHOTOGRAPHING AIRPORT WHILE SOVIET
OFFICIALS AND PERHAPS SENSITIVE AIRCRAFT AND OTHER GEAR ARE
USING PRAGUE AIRPORT. BREZHNEV, OF COURSE,
LEAVES JUNE 2, WELL BEFORE 30 DAYS ELAPSE. HAY BELIEVES
DELAY WAS ANOTHER CASE OF GOC "HARRASSMENT" OF PAN AM, AND
HAS SO INFORMED PAN AM HQ. WE HAVE TOLD HAY,
WHO SEEMS PLEASED WITH EMBASSY SUPPORT TO DATE, THAT WE WILL
FULLY SUPPORT PROMPT RESCHEDULING OF PROJECT AT A
TIME CONVENIENT TO PAN AM. HE SAYS, HOWEVER, THAT
PAN AM MAY GIVE UP IN DISGUST AFTER ONE YEAR OF
TRYING TO ARRANGE WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A SIMPLE
PHOTOGRAPHIC EFFORT.
DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT.
BYRNE

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, PHOTOGRAPHY, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PRAGUE01424
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780233-1235
Format: TEL
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806102/aaaadjuw.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 061c777c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PRAGUE 3299, 78 PRAGUE 3274
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2143739
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: GOC POSTPONES PAN AM PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT
TAGS: EAIR, CZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/061c777c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014